

Biographies of Kentucky Board of Education Members

Vacant – At-Large

Grayson R. Boyd

Grayson R. Boyd is a retired educator with 38 years of experience in the Paintsville Independent and Johnson County school systems. He has been a classroom teacher, assistant principal, principal, instructional supervisor, and director of pupil personnel. Grayson received his bachelor's from Morehead State University, master's from the University of Virginia, and Rank I certification from Morehead State University. He has served on the boards of the Kentucky Association of School Administrators, Kentucky Association of Secondary School Principals, and Kentucky Association of Academic Competition. Grayson lives in Williamsport with his wife, Diana, and has three children and seven grandchildren.

Leonel Calderón

Leonel (Leo) Calderón is the Director for Latino Student Affairs at Northern Kentucky University (NKU). He advises major corporations, schools and non-profit organizations about how to effectively deal with the educational needs of the growing Latino population. Leo has served on the board of the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati, Behringer-Crawford Museum, and the English Language Learners Foundation. He holds a master's in public administration and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from NKU and an associate of arts in psychology from Thomas More College. Leo resides in Edgewood with his wife, Kathy, and has three children and three grandchildren.

Debra L. Cook

Debra (Debbie) L. Cook has always served as an advocate for children and has recently retired. Her varied work history includes time as a teacher, guidance counselor, and most recently as director of children's ministries at a large church. Debbie also worked as an administrative law judge with Kentucky's Workforce Cabinet and served as a local school board member for sixteen years. Her bachelor's degree is from Carson Newman College and her master's is in educational guidance from Winthrop College. She lives in Corbin and has four children and five grandchildren.

Samuel Hinkle

Samuel (Sam) Hinkle is an attorney at Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC. He resides in Shelby County. Sam is a graduate of Washington and Lee University and Yale Law School. He has previously served on the Shelby County East Middle School's Site-Based Decision Making Council. He also served for more than 10 years as a member and chair of the Shelby County Board of Education. Sam has four children, all of whom are graduates of the Shelby County School District, and is himself a graduate of the public schools in Shelby County.

David Karem

David Karem of Louisville is president of the Louisville Waterfront Development Corporation. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning and a juris doctor degree from the University of Louisville. For 33 years, David served in the Kentucky General Assembly and for 20+ years on the Southern Regional Education Board (committee chair and treasurer). He is the past chair of the Louisville Science Center's Educational Advisory Board and is a former member of the boards of Spalding University and the Louisville Downtown Partnership. David and his wife, Anne, have two sons, Dr. Jeff Karem and doctoral candidate Andrew Karem, both educated in the Jefferson County school system.

Robert King (Ex Officio Member)

Robert (Bob) King is president of the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) and by statute serves as a non-voting member of the board. He received his bachelor's from Trinity College and a juris doctor degree from Vanderbilt University. At CPE, Bob has led statewide efforts to collaborate with K-12 education, has focused campus attention on student success, and is encouraging significant reform in teacher and principal training. He was elected to the Executive Committee of the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO), is the former Chancellor of the State University of New York and has served as president and CEO of the Arizona Community Foundation. He and his wife, Karen, have four children and one grandchild.

Roger L. Marcum

Roger L. Marcum retired from public education after 34 years and as executive vice president of St. Catharine College in January 2014. He earned his bachelor's degree from Berea College and his master's, Rank I and superintendent certification from Eastern Kentucky University. Roger is a Prichard Committee member and volunteer for Tri-County United Way. He also is past president of the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents, Kentucky Association of School Administrators, Kentucky Association of School Councils and the Council for Better Education. Roger and his wife, Bobbie, have two children and three grandchildren.

Jonathan Parrent

Jonathan Parrent is currently the chief student affairs officer at Madisonville Community College. He has worked in higher education for over 15 years at both public and private institutions. Jonathan earned a degree in history from Kentucky Wesleyan College, and holds graduate degrees from Murray State University and the University of Louisville. He completed his doctorate (Ed. D.) in educational leadership studies at the University of Kentucky. He serves on the Glema Mahr Center for the Arts Advisory Committee and Work Ready Community Committees in Hopkins and Muhlenberg Counties. Jonathan and his wife, Jennifer, live in Princeton and have two children attending the Caldwell County school system.

Nawanna B. Privett

Nawanna Barton Privett was a teacher, principal and central office director in Fayette County for 25 years. She also served as a distinguished educator, director of the

Collaborative Center for Literacy Development, and first state director of the Kentucky Leadership Academy and CEO Superintendents' Network. Currently she is the facilitator for the Kentucky Education Action Team (KEAT). She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees and Rank I from the University of Kentucky. She is an elder at Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church, a member of the UK College of Education Board of Advocates, and a board member for Women Leading Kentucky. Nawanna and her husband, Dr. George Privett, have five children and five grandchildren.

William L. Twyman

William L. (Bill) Twyman is a semi-retired educator and works part-time with Educational Directions of Louisville. He taught math and science in the Glasgow Independent school district and served in administration as a principal and in the central office. He was among the first educators in Kentucky to receive the Milken Educator Award (1993). Bill did his undergraduate work at Campbellsville University and George Peabody University and earned a master's and a Rank I at Western Kentucky University. He serves on the Western Kentucky University Advisory Board and the Glasgow Community Medical Care Board and is a member of the Glasgow Kiwanis Club. Bill and his wife, Lou Frances, have four children and seven grandchildren.

Mary Gwen Wheeler

Mary Gwen Wheeler of Louisville is executive director of 55,000 Degrees, a multi-sector partnership focused on improving education attainment. Previously, she served in Louisville Metro Government as the mayor's senior advisor for Education and Youth and cabinet secretary for Health and Family Services and spent ten years in project management, strategic planning and development with the National Center for Family Literacy. She received a bachelor's degree from Yale University and a master's from the Yale School of Management. Mary Gwen volunteers with the Fund for Transforming Education in Kentucky, the University of Louisville Community Partnership Board, the Yale-China Association, and as a Prichard Committee member. She and her husband, David A. Jones, Jr., a local school board member, have two children.